Day Laborers Face Chilly Economy

By Noheri Ramirez

It is 6:30 a.m. and 10 men stand shivering outside the Southside Presbyterian Church in the dark and cold Tucson morning.

For many of them, this is a daily routine. Their only way to earn a little money is to join the Day Laborers Program at the church in hopes that someone will need to hire a few men for landscaping, construction or moving for the day. But Rigoberto Polanco, a day laborer for five years, says that it has recently become a more difficult way for him and the others to earn a few dollars.

Polanco, originally from Sinaloa, Mexico, said that he has been a day laborer for so long because it's hard to find a full-time job.

"The economy is really hard," says Rigoberto Polanco in Spanish. "That is why we have to come here."

But as the economy tanked, new housing started to dry up and fewer homeowners started remodeling jobs, there became less demand for day laborers.

This was the case for Ramon Manuel, who lives in Tucson during the winter and in California the rest of the year. He said that every winter he comes back to Tucson with his family and tries to find a temporary job in the construction industry, but this year he has had no luck and has had to go to the church.

The Southside Church has been helping day laborers since the mid-1990s, but in September 2010, the church, at 317 W. 23rd St. in Tucson, began offering a day laborers program that allows the workers to stand on church property until 11 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays the church offers free breakfast, hot showers and clothes for those who need it.

Coordinator Aaron Banas says that the program has evolved over the years. The workers enter a raffle each morning to determine the order in which they will be hired for the day — assuming anyone is looking for workers.

It's 7 a.m. and there are now 50 men waiting for the church doors to open so they can line up single file and place their numbers in a bowl. Then all they can do is wait for their number to be called.

But these days, most of the workers go home empty-handed.

Banas says that it used to be that every day about 10 laborers would be hired. Recently, the average number has gone down to two.

"The economy has definitely played a huge role in the day laborer field," he says. "It has been pretty difficult for a lot of the day laborers."

It is 8:30 a.m. and there is no sign of an employer.

The men, mostly from Mexico, Central America, can check on church property until 11 a.m., Monday through Friday, looking for work. Many are skilled and are ready to do just about anything.

Carlos Macian, 53, said that he has worked in landscaping, plumbing and carpet installation.

"I come here every day," he says. "There is more work here than before."

Rigoberto Polanco, originally from Sinaloa, said that if things do not get better he will have to go back to Mexico, where he worked in agriculture.

"I'll go back to my land as soon as I save up for the ticket," he says. "There is more work there than here."

"It is 11 a.m. and only two employers came by. The situation for the day laborers is not good, but Banas hopes that now that the weather is nicer there will be more work."

"A lot of these guys are just family guys as well and are having a hard time in the economy too," Banas said. "It is good to support them while they support the community."

Programa para la involucración hispana en el censo

Por Zach Simon

Traducido por Dina Tyrrell

Los programas para la involucración en el censo alrededor del país, incluyendo los de Tucson, están tratando de encontrar la mejor manera de persuadir a la gente que se quiere alejar del radar para decidir qué servicios comunes, envejecimiento acerca del censo en los EE.UU. del 2010.

La población hispana en los EE.UU. ha sido históricamente difícil de contar a causa de los conceptos comunes falto acerca de cómo el gobierno usa los datos recolectados, dijo Magedina Barajas, una asociada especialista para la Oficina del Censo de los EE.UU. que trabaja en Tucson. Los programas asociados trabajan a nivel local para informar a la gente que el censo es rápido y seguro.

Barajas dijo que hay lugares con poblaciones minoritarias muy grandes, incluyendo a las comunidades hispanas que son muy difíciles de contar.

A vísperas del censo 2010, la Oficina del Censo está tomando varias iniciativas para promover la educación acerca del censo en la comunidad hispana, como los anuncios en la radio bilingüe, en la televisión, y en el internet. La meta es fomentar la participación completa en Tucson y alrededor del país.

"La cuenta exacta de la población hispana del país es de cualquier otro grupo ayudará a asegurar el reparto justo y equitativo de la representación política y también ayudará que las comunidades reciban una distribución justa de fondos," dijo Melanie Dual de la Oficina de Información Pública de la Oficina del Censo. La información es usada para asignar a los estados escasos en el congreso, distribuir fondos federales anuales a los gobiernos estatales, locales y tribales, y para decidir qué servicios comunitarios se van a proveer en las áreas que el censo indica que son las más necesitadas. Eso signifi-

cará que mientras menos residentes del Sur de Tucson participen en el censo, el gobierno local recibirá menos fondos para construir carreteras, parques y escuelas.

Day Laborers Program at the Southside Presbyterian Church.

A day laborer volunteer directs people interested in hiring day laborers at the Southside Presbyterian Church.

Day Laborers Program at the Southside Presbyterian Church.

The program is operated by the Church and is intended to help day laborers find work. The workers can check on church property until 11 a.m. on Monday-Friday, looking for work. Many are skilled and are ready to do just about anything.

"I come here every day," says Rigoberto Polanco, a day laborer for five years. "There is more work here than before."

The men, mostly from Mexico, Central America, can check on church property until 11 a.m., Monday through Friday, looking for work. Many are skilled and are ready to do just about anything.

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"A lot of these guys are just family guys as well and are having a hard time in the economy too," Banas said. "It is good to support them while they support the community."
I-19 Checkpoint Construction Begins

By Jessica Befort

Construction began Jan. 4 on an interim U.S. Border Patrol check- point on Interstate 19 and should be completed in early April, according to U.S. Border Patrol. But as of yet, there is no timeline for the construction of a permanent facility.

The $1.5 million interim facility will include a third lane for semitrailers, a secondary inspection and a canopy to cover the entire facility, said Omar Candelaria, a Border Patrol spokesperson.

The interim checkpoint – located between the Agua Linda and Chavez Siding exits – will be less than one mile south of the current temporary check- point, north of Tubac, he said.

Currently two lanes run north and south along I-19. One lane in the northbound direction was closed for a week when con- struction first began. Aside from this early closure, there are no plans to close parts of the interstate, except perhaps when the canopy is constructed, Candelaria said.

The contractors are trying to figure out the best way to build the canopy while minimizing the impact on traffic, Candelaria said. If the highway is closed, it will be only for an hour or less and will be at times when the high- way is least busy.

But this is the worst-case scenario, he said. The contrac- tors have not yet come up with a complete plan for the canopy’s construction, and traffic might be deferred to a detour.

Those heading south of Tucson for the Tubac Festival of the Arts from Feb. 10-14 will not encounter construction as it will halt from Feb. 7-17 to accommo- date the influx of traffic.

But has construction affected traffic for those who frequently pass through the checkpoint?

Chelsea Robling, a Tucson resident who grew up in Tubac and returns to visit her family, said that since construction has started she hasn’t experienced any extra delays.

The current checkpoint gets backed up depending on what time of the day it is, Robling said, an issue that could be alleviated by the interim and then permanent checkpoint.

While Rob- ling said she is in favor of the per- manent check- point, some Tubac residents don’t support the idea.

“I think it’s a waste of money,” said Jane Lowder, owner of Jane’s Antic in Tubac. Lowder said that she thinks the temporary checkpoint is not an appro- priate place for the checkpoint.

“They should be securing the border at the border,” she said.

The I-19 checkpoint is part of the U.S. Border Patrol’s Tucson Sector, which runs from the New Mexico state line to the Yuma County line. It’s the busiest sector in the nation, according to Candelaria. Between 46 to 48 percent of marijuana seizures occur in the Tucson sector.

The Tucson Sector is the busiest, it is the only one along the Southwest border without permanent checkpoints. The I-19 checkpoint is the first being upgraded to a permanent facili- ty, with this interim checkpoint being a step toward that goal.

A permanent facility is need- ed to accommodate the anticip- ated increased traffic as the Mariposa port of entry in Nogales, Ariz., upgrades, Cande- laria said.

“If we have more commercial traffic, coming north from Mex- ico, and we don’t have the appro- priate facilities to accommodate the traffic, there will be back up.”

The primary reason for upgrading the temporary I-19 checkpoint is to increase safety for Border Patrol agents and the public, he said.

“We believe that it’s very likely that if you’re a smuggler and you want to place people in your stuff and all the other places have permanent checkpoints, the Tucson Sector does not, that’s where you’re going to enter,” Candelaria said. “It’s an obvious choice.”

South Tucson’s Bilingual Newspaper

El Independiente encourages letters from all readers, but reserves the right to edit correspondence for grammar, style, clarity and length.

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Sunnyside Looking to Double Enrollment at Alt. High School

By Brett Booen

Between an ongoing concern to tighten the budget and a $12,000 spending fiasco involving Sunnyside High School’s superintendent, an unexpected source of hope emerged at Sunnyside Unified School District’s Governing Board meeting Jan. 26.

While the primary concern for many in attend- ance was answers from the board regarding Superintendent Manuel L. Izquierdo’s personal use of a district credit card, a band of students and faculty from STAR Academic Center gathered for a different cause.

The STAR supporters, which included about 40 students, asked the board to consider a redesign of the STAR Alternative High School. The hope is that the second- chance school can be a success for at-risk students on a larger scale.

STAR teachers have an optimistic view of the possibility. Michael Olguin, a STAR Academic Center teacher, said: “We understand the different cause.”

That collaborative process, Olguin said, was to relieve some of the pressure on the district’s other two high schools.

Gonzales said before the economic downturn, STAR was under the constant stress to become more cost-effective. The board says adding students at STAR is a necessity at this point.

“If I could have and we could afford 10 STAR (high schools), then it would be a table right now,” said SUSD Board President Louie Gonzales. “Small schools are great, but it’s all about cost.”

Gonzales said before the economic downturn, the district was in line to build a third high school to relieve some of the pressure on the district’s other two high schools.

Without funding for construction, the district cannot expand its use of STAR students at Sunnyside and Desert View by increasing the enrollment at STAR. The hope is that the second- chance school will be a success for at-risk students on a larger scale.

“We need to expand for those at-risk students in our district who need help,” Gonzales said.

For more information: www.elindenews.com
The 85th annual Tucson Rodeo Parade will begin at its usual time, 9 a.m., on Thursday, Feb. 25, but there is a new change that visitors should be aware of before they put on their boots and head down to watch the country’s longest non-motorized parade.

This year the parade will be a half mile shorter than usual. Instead of starting at Ajo Way and Park Avenue, the parade will begin at Park Avenue and Fair Street, eight blocks south of Ajo Way. From there, the parade will travel south on Park Avenue, turn west on Irvington Road and then turn north to Sixth Avenue, ending at the arena grounds, 4823 S. Sixth Ave.

The parade route was shortened this year because of Tucson Police budget cuts, said Herb Wagner, Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee spokesman.

Wagner said city police are in charge of traffic and crowd control and reassigned to help with the parade during the event. But this year the city police could only afford to spare 120 officers to do the Parade Committee, about 80 fewer than last year.

Wagner said the decision to begin at Fair Street instead of Ajo Way was made to maximize the availability of the officers to cover the parade.

“It takes a lot of officers to close Ajo Way,” he said. “By keeping Ajo open, it frees up a lot of officers.”

They also chose that area because in past years, it has been the least populated by parade-goers since it is harder to reach, Wagner said.

Wagner doesn’t believe the change will affect the outcome of the parade, which showcases America’s western history by using old-fashioned wagons and buggies.

“The parade reflects different histories,” Wagner said. “It is a mixture of Native American, Mexican American and Anglo cultures all coming together. So I believe it will be as colorful and exciting as ever.”

The last time the parade route experienced any changes was in 1991, when it was moved from downtown to its current location.

About 200,000 people are estimated to attend the parade every year, the single largest spectator event in Arizona, Wagner said.

Golf tournaments and other events draw large crowds over days, he said, but the parade draws the largest during a single two-and-a-half hour event.

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With American teams leaving Tucson, Japanese baseball teams could take their place.

By Anthony Hasan

This spring, Tucson Electric Park and the Kino Sports Complex will be the host to a Major League Baseball team's training headquarters for the last time.

March 4 will be the first game of the last year of the Arizona Diamondbacks' spring training in Tucson when they host the Colorado Rockies at Tucson Electric Park, 2500 E. Ajo Way.

The Diamondbacks will play 16 games at the park during March. All games start at 1:05 p.m.

Next season, the Diamondbacks and Rockies will move to a new spring training complex east of Tucson. The move comes two years after the Chicago White Sox ended their 11-year stint sharing the Kino Sports Complex with the Diamondbacks.

The White Sox moved to a new complex with the Los Angeles Dodgers in Glendale, Ariz.

Jack Camper, president of the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, said he can see why some Tucsonans are disheartened by the prospect of no more spring training. For more than 60 years, baseball teams and their fans enjoyed baseball teams and their fans enjoyed Tucson’s weather. The departure of the Diamondbacks and Rockies will have an economic effect on Tucson as well.

Each team brings about $10 million a year to Tucson's economy, Camper said. When Tucson was hosting all three teams, the city could rely on about $30 million in tourism and other sources of revenue.

The revenue loss from the departure of spring training hurts local businesses, said Francisco Valdez, manager for the Las Cazuelitas de Tucson, 2615 S. Sixth Ave.

Valdez said events like spring training are great for restaurants.

“Anything that brings people to Tucson and creates an atmosphere that brings people out with their families, their kids, really helps businesses,” he said.

Camper said there is still hope for professional baseball in Tucson, as negotiations are taking place between Major League Baseball and professional teams in Japan to bring their stars to train in Tucson.

“It works out because their spring training starts right around the same time as ours,” Camper said.

Ideally, he said, there will be two or three professional Japanese teams moving their spring training operations to Tucson as early as next season, and Tucson would see benefits almost immediately.

Seeing the top players from Japan take on American baseball stars would be exciting for many fans, Camper said, especially those from Japan, making spring training in Tucson a must-see for Japanese tourists and baseball fans alike.

While those negotiations are far from complete, Camper said he is still optimistic about the future of professional baseball in Tucson.

“The Japanese are rabid baseball fans,” he said.

“I can see Japanese (tourists) landing in Las Vegas, driving to the Grand Canyon on their way to Tucson to watch their own teams play, then heading off to Los Angeles.”

Se acorta el DESFILE DEL RODEO

Por Heather Rissi

Traducido por Dina Tyrrell

El 85º Desfile Anual del Rodeo de Tucson empezará a la hora usual de las 9 a.m. el 25 de febrero, pero hay un nuevo cambio que los visitantes tienen que saber antes de poder hacerse a la idea de ver el desfile no-motorizado más largo de Arizona.

Este año el desfile será una milla más corta que de costumbre. En lugar de comenzar en Ajo Way y Park Avenue, comenzará en Park Avenue y Fair Street, ocho cuadras al sur de Ajo Way. De ahí, el desfile se dirigirá hacia el sur por Park Avenue, virará al oeste en Irvington Road y luego al norte en Sixth Street, para terminar en una de las rutas. 4823 S. Sixth Ave.

La ruta del desfile fue acortada este año a causa de los recortes en el presupuesto de la Policía de Tucson, dijo Herb Wagner, vocero del Comité del Desfile, unos 80 menos que el año pasado.

Wagner dijo que la decisión de comenzar en Fair Street en lugar de Ajo Way fue tomada para maximizar la disponibilidad de agentes de Ajo Way. “By keeping Ajo open, it frees up a lot of officers.”

Wagner dijo que la policía está a cargo del tráfico y la muchedumbre y son reasignados para ayudar con el desfile durante el evento.

Este año la policía de la ciudad podrá asignar solo 120 oficiales para apoyar al Comité del Desfile, unos 80 menos que el año pasado.

Wagner dijo que la decisión de comenzar en Fair Street en lugar de Ajo Way fue tomada para maximizar la disponibilidad de agentes para cubrir el desfile.

“Se requiere mucho personal para cerrar Ajo Way”, dijo él. “Si no se cierra Ajo, se desocupan muchos agentes.”

También se escogió esa área porque en años pasados ha sido la menos poblada con visitantes ya que es más difícil llegar allí, dijo Wagner.

Wagner no considera que el cambio arruinará el carácter del desfile, el cual muestra la historia del oeste de América usando carruajes y calzados de caballo.

“El desfile refleja varias herencias”, dijo Wagner. “Es una mezcla de culturas nativo-americanas, mexicanas, japonesas y anglo-americanas que se unen entre sí. Así que yo pienso que será tan colorido y tan emocionante como siempre.”

La última vez que la ruta del desfile experimentó cambios fue en 1991, cuando se movió del centro de la ciudad a donde está ahora.

Se estima que cerca de 200,000 personas asistirán al desfile este año, el décimo evento con más espectadores en Arizona, dijo Wagner.

El desfile atrae a la mayoría multirracial durante un evento de solo dos horas y media.

Si va:

Transporte: Sun Tran recoge en Tucson Mall y Park Place Mall, bajada a corta distancia del desfile.

Asistir en grados: el lado de Irvington Road es el sitio donde se acercan antes del desfile custodian $6 para adultos y $4 para niños menores de 12. El sitio de Fair Street es el sitio más cerca del centro de Tucson.

Para más información: llame al 294-1280 o visite la Oficina del Desfile del Rodeo en Tucson, 4823 S. Sixth Ave.
Journey to the Center of the World

By Nathan Mitchell

Oregon-based Sue Liebetrau has been coming to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show since 1982. She is a “well-aged” collector of gems and minerals with a particular interest in petrified wood, though her fascination began at an early age. Her collection has grown into a full-time hobby.

“You know that little kid going around picking up rocks and sticks? That was me,” she says.

The 56th annual show has brought together vendors, collectors and buyers from India to Argentina to create another year of the reputed world’s largest gem show.

Shoppers and spectators are welcomed into hotels and tent cities to see the natural wonders of the world. Objects for sale can be extravagant: a crystal chunk of quartz and topaz from Brazil. She sits beside the stones in a room at the La Quinta Inn, reference books on crystal energy at an arm’s reach. Every crystal has energy. Energy is working through us, she says.

Vendors and customers where there are similar, such as the one in Munich or Barcelona. He says, Oregon-based collector. “The variety and quality of minerals there is better than what you can find in a big mall.”

The show attracted approximately 10,000 people and $50 million in 2007, according to the most recent survey conducted by the Tucson Convention and Visitor Bureau, says Kimberly Schmitz, director of public relations. The event, which is open to the public, has a total of 44 shows.

“Those are inaccurate representations of the gem show, she says.” “It’s the Tucson Gem Show!”

While the gem show attracts new vendors and new shoppers every year, it also has its loyalists. This is the second year for Chen Hou-Xi and his wife from China. They are from Tucson, China. Pedro Jimenez and Ana de Los Santos are South American vendors who have been trekking to Tucson, stone by stone, for many years. Though they both now work from the United States, their products carry an inherent sense of their cultures.

Jimenez is a Peruvian-born singer of Inca chants who runs his handcrafted Kachinas, figures that represent supernal beings. The Kachinas take on the shape of animals and deities, like sun dancers and corn maidens. The eagle dancer Kachinas have the bodies of men with pitch-black feathers and can walk on feather in each hand. The turquoise heads are topped with feathered headresses. He also crafts different figurines like “Ancient Peruvian Natives,” warriors dressed in golden robes and helmets with daggers in their hands.

Jimenez relocated from Peru to Santa Fe, N.M., 20 years ago. He was taken in by local Apache families, who gave him the name Blue Elk, now the moniker of his business. “It’s an honor, he says.”

Costco Could Boost South Side Economy

By Erica Narvaez

A south side Costco store could go a long way in the development of the city, a spokesman for the city says. The city approves plans that have been submitted by developers Eastboine Investments Ltd. and Retail West.

The store is part of the long-term, 350-acre Bridges Project, which will include retail and residential developments, as well as a University of Arizona biosciences park. The project is located on the south side of Kino Boulevard and 36th Street.

President of Retail West Properties Eric Davis said that the city approves the plans for Costco, which is interested in the project. “Costco, even during these economic times, is a sound business model,” Kerr said.

The Tucson City Council expects that the new store will attract people to the south side who would not otherwise think of going there, Kerr said.

Kerr said that he has not heard of any opposition to the plan at this time. However, in March 2007, Councilwomen Karin Uhlich and Martha VirAMontes voted against the development, voicing their opposition to a “big-box” store, which was once predicted by the city as the site of Ward 5, said that the new store would mean an “economic boom” for the south side and all of Tucson.

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News of the development has managers take away from his business as a private seller.

"Of course, no one's happy with bringing in any competitor of any kind," said Ramon Lopez, manager of the direct store Food City, 2950 S. Sixth Ave. "I would rather they all stay away.

However, Lopez said that he is unfamiliar with a big package competitor like Costco. He said that Food City’s business might not suffer because the chain deals with smaller, lower-volume items whereas Costco tends to sell items in bulk.

Davis said that the Bridge’s Project as a whole will increase tax revenues and generate traffic in the area.

The proposed Costco would be the third location in Tucson.

Davis said that depending on how long it takes to get approval to start construction, on top of the basic infrastructure, March 2011 is the earliest date that the store could open.

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"Of course, no one's happy with bringing in any competitor of any kind," said Ramon Lopez, manager of the direct store Food City, 2950 S. Sixth Ave. "I would rather they all stay away.

However, Lopez said that he is unfamiliar with a big package competitor like Costco. He said that Food City’s business might not suffer because the chain deals with smaller, lower-volume items whereas Costco tends to sell items in bulk.

Davis said that the Bridge’s Project as a whole will increase tax revenues and generate traffic in the area.

The proposed Costco would be the third location in Tucson.

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Census Offering Jobs

By Kaite Flynn

Keeping tabs on all U.S. residents is a tricky job that census workers undertake every 10 years, and it’s time to start counting. The U.S. Census Bureau is gearing up for Census 2010 and one of the key centers of business is hiring census workers.

There are hundreds of positions available in Tucson, said Gilbert Mejias, a local census officer manager in Tucson. Partnership specialists are working with businesses and city government to get the word out about these jobs. The biggest contributor for Tucson is the Pima Community. As of Government, Mejias said, Recruiting assistants are also signing people up for job testing throughout the city.

“The primary source is to have assistants out there doing the recruiting," Mejias said.

The jobs being offered are part-time, temporary positions. The most common are census takers and office clerks. The average worker will hold their position through the end of June, Mejias said.

The wages for these jobs are competitive, Mejias said. The pay rate will range from $7.25 an hour, which is $7.25 an hour, according to the Industrial Commission of Arizona. A census taker makes $13.75 an hour and office and questionnaire assistants clerks typically make $10.50 an hour, Mejias said. Those hired can expect to work anywhere from 15 to 20 hours a week, depending on the workload, he said.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number or work permit and pass a background check.

Though citizenship is preferred, it is not always necessary for these positions. There are instances where hiring a non-citizen could help with possible language barriers when working with hard-to-count areas of town, Mejias said.

Those interested must first call a local recruitment center, the 2010 Census Jobs Line or go online to download an application. Applicants must then schedule an aptitude test at a testing site. Recruiters will determine if the site is closest to the applicants’ neighborhoods and reserve them a spot.

There are currently three testing sites in South Tucson, plus nearby facilities in adjacent areas, said Caryn Walker, assistant manager of recruiting.

Upon reaching the site, an applicant must be filled out, and then the test will be given. The test will take $7. 5 hours, according to the Census Industrial of Arizona. A worker of the census generally makes $7.75 an hour, and the receptionists make $13.75 an hour and office and questionnaire assistants clerks typically make $10.50 an hour, Mejias said. A census taker makes $13.75 an hour and office and questionnaire assistants clerks typically make $10.50 an hour, Mejias said.

The application process is competitive, Mejias said. The pay rate will range from $7.25 an hour, which is $7.25 an hour, according to the Industrial Commission of Arizona. A census taker makes $13.75 an hour and office and questionnaire assistants clerks typically make $10.50 an hour, Mejias said. Those hired can expect to work anywhere from 15 to 20 hours a week, depending on the workload, he said.

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The South Park Arts and Culture Center will use its grant as seed money for three educational institutions available in Tucson, said Gilbert Mejias, the local census officer manager in Tucson. Partnership specialists are working with businesses and city government to get the word out about these jobs. The biggest contributor for Tucson is the Pima Community. As of Government, Mejias said, Recruiting assistants are also signing people up for job testing throughout the city.

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“Su vocación, que los inmigrantes no saben informar”, expresó un sentimiento parecido acerca de sus clientes: “La familia del Censo está bajo juramento de mantener la confidencialidad, pero no estoy seguro de si el Censo está bajo juramento de proteger esta privacidad. A veces es difícil para la Oficina del Censo el compartir esta información con cualquier otra agencia del gobierno, como el Servicio de Recepción de Inmigración y Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración, dije Deal.

Sin embargo, eso no es posible, el censo de 2000 estableció que los EE.UU. estrictamente protege la confidencialidad de cualquier persona que fue enumerada. Los empleados de la Oficina del Censo tienen un juramento estricto de proteger esta privacidad.


• Intended to put more pres-

• The American Civil Liberties

• Under new law, it would be illegal to pick up and hire "day laborers" if they are not US citizens.

• Intended to put more pres-

• The bill would not require special training for officers to identify illegal immigrants, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

• "This would expose municipality to additional civil litigation," said Valdivia, who wrote the book "A Mexican's Guide to U.S. Immigration Law."
Census reaches out to Hispanic community

By Zach Simon

Census outreach programs around the country, including those in Tucson, are trying to figure out the best way to reach people trying to stay off the government's radar to participate in the upcoming 2010 U.S. Census. The Hispanic population in the United States has historically been difficult to tally because of common misconceptions about how the government uses the collected data, said Magdalena Barajas, a partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau. Tucson Partnership programs work on a local level to inform people the census is fast and safe.

Barajas said that places with large minority populations, including those in Tucson, are hard to count.

With the census about to start, the Census Bureau is taking several initiatives to promote census reform in those areas of the country, such as using bilingual radio, television and Internet advertising. The goal is to encourage full participation in Tucson and around the country.

The Census Bureau estimates that the Hispanic population or any other group of people might be undercounted by non-aggregate apportionment of political representation and will help eliminate that error by receiving a fair distribution of funds," said Melanie Deal of the U.S. Census Bureau Public Information Office.

The data is used to assign congressional districts, determine federal funds to state, local and non-profit agencies and to decide what community services to provide the areas that the census returns are in need of. That means that if fewer South Tucson residents participate in the census, the local government receives less money to build roads, parks and schools. There is also less representation in the government.

However, many people residing illegally in the country don't participate out of fear of being reported to the government.

"This isn't a possibility though, according to Deal, and Title 13 of the U.S. Code strictly protects the confidentiality of the government. The Census Bureau employees take an oath of secrecy for life to protect that privacy. Further, it is illegal for the Census Bureau to share the information with any other government agency, such as the Internal Revenue Service or the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Deal said.

But how many in South Tucson actually know this? "If they send me one [a census form], I'll probably fill it out, but I really don't know much about it," said Chris Hurtado, 31, of South Tucson.

Ron Strickle, executive assistant manager at the South Tucson Walgreens, 1900 S. Sixth Ave., said the similar sentiments of the customers.

"I know that [the Census Bureau] is sworn to confidentiality...I'm not sure the majority of illegal immigrants here in do," Strickle said. "If they don't have documentation, they're afraid of reporting to the government, even though that's how they [the U.S. Census] determine appropriation of government aid." Even if illegal immigrants were informed, they might not believe it or want to risk getting caught, he said.

The Census Bureau is working to promote awareness, education and participation among people like Hurtado in Tucson, said Anda Cummings, a partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau involved with a Tucson Hispanic outreach team.

"The Devil Knows Best." The TV channel "Univision" was used to call citizens to fill out their census forms in phone banks once a month in March and April, where for a few hours, "people were really devoted to taking census questions and answering them on air," said Laura Cummings.

The 2010 Census website is now available in Spanish at www.2010census.gov/espanol.

Mobile meals celebrates 40 years of aid

By Marissa Hopkins

Mobile Meals of Tucson celebrates its 40th birthday this year. Since 1970, the volunteer-based organization has delivered over two meals a day, five days a week to Tucson area homebound in need of special diets.

Jeanne Miller, volunteer and program coordinator, said Mobile Meals delivers food Monday through Friday to more than 2,500 homebound clients.

"The Devil Knows Best." On the contrary, the economic benefits of comprehensive immigration reform to the Latino community and that polls it shows it to be a priority of the American people as well. "The Devil Knows Best." "This administration needs to deliver on promises they've made," Cárdenas said. "We need a comprehensive approach that includes legalization and a realistic program to support labor needs.

"The Devil Knows Best." Cárdenas recognizes the issue and said comprehensive change is necessary to address the 12 million people without papers in the country.

"Immigrants are settled in our communities," Cárdenas said. "They are part of our economy. We're not going to be able to deport 12 million people, and they're not going to leave." Ultimately, the study says, if the reform provides the opportunity and comprehensive change to invest in the U.S., the nation's economy will fare well to improve the profits of change.

Para leer este artículo en español visite: www.elfindenews.com

Immigration reform could stimulate economy

By Josh T. Sanders

A recent study found that immigration reform could stimulate the U.S. economy to be a priority of the American people as well. "The Devil Knows Best." "This administration needs to deliver on promises they've made," Cárdenas said. "We need a comprehensive approach that includes legalization and a realistic program to support labor needs. Cárdenas recognizes the issue and said comprehensive change is necessary to address the 12 million people without papers in the country. "Immigrants are settled in our communities," Cárdenas said. "They are part of our economy. We're not going to be able to deport 12 million people, and they're not going to leave." Ultimately, the study says, if the reform provides the opportunity and comprehensive change to invest in the U.S., the nation's economy will fare well to improve the profits of change.

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The Census Bureau is working to promote awareness, education and participation among people like Hurtado in Tucson, said Anda Cummings, a partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau involved with a Tucson Hispanic outreach team. "The Devil Knows Best." La Estrella de Tucson ran a two-page spread giving information about confidentiality and safety, Cummings said. "The big question for so many people is, where does the information go and what is done with it?" she said. "We are trying to help answer those questions. Radio stations 102.1 FM "La Catracha" and 107.9 KZOC also had a few half-hour programs on the census with interviews from representatives of the census, the confidentiality programs and that roads, highways and schools get built because of annual federal funds allocated to certain areas depending on population.

"The Devil Knows Best." Barajas said that uses "trusted voices" in South Tucson to spread comprehensive immigration reform partnerships with various organizations, such as Tucson radio stations, housing authorities and local officials.

"The Devil Knows Best." On a national level, the TV channel "Telefomin" launched a national awareness campaign in January called "Count Your Heart Out Count," or "Make Yourself Count." Part of the campaign included a website, http://www.takecount.org, which lists its most popular telere counts to that site, "El Devoto, El Devoto," or "The Devil Knows Best."

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The 2010 Census website is now available in Spanish at www.2010census.gov/espanol.
February 11 / 11 de febrero 2010

EL INDEPENDIENTE

¿QUÉ PASA?

By Erica Nannini

January 28, 2010

Artes Picadiente

Jose Robles is a Tucson attorney and artist who paints using a toothpick (and the occasional cactus thorn) as his only tool. He refers to his wood and ceramic works as “Artes Picadiente,” or “Toothpick Art.” A collection of about 1,000 pieces of his work will be on display at La Platiña Museum, 420 S. Main Ave., which is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission to the exhibit is free. Contact 882-7454 or visit www.laplitila.com for details.

Feb. 9 - 12, Feb. 14

Valentine Workshop

Bring the little tykes to the Tucson Children’s Museum for a day of Valentine crafts. Parents and kids can use tissue paper to decorate heart-shaped cards. The activity is included in the price of admission to the museum, 200 S. Sixth Ave., and begins at 3 p.m. Admission is $6 for children up to 18, $8 for adults and $6 for seniors. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, visit www.tucsonchildrensmuseum.org or call 792-9985.

Feb. 10

Urban Murals

Murals are often seen as vandalism. The Sam Lena-South Tucson Branch Library, 1607 S. Sixth Ave., is offering a free seminar to dispel this notion and show murals as urban art with a valuable history. The program is part of the Library and History Project: Celebrating Mexican-American Authors, Arts and Culture, and will be presented by the Social Justice Education Project. The educational program runs from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.library.pima.gov or call 592-5265.

Feb. 17

Laptop Award Celebration

Come support the nearly 500 freshmen students from Desert View and Sunnyside high schools who will receive laptops in an open award ceremony at University of Arizona Centennial Hall, 1501 N. Campbell Ave. The students have earned the laptops by meeting the GPA and attendance requirements of the district’s Project Graduation. The Digital Library laptop ceremony is free and will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Students can register online at www.nysidek12.k12.ar.us or call 545-2000 for more information.

Feb. 20 - 28

Tucson Rodeo

See current and former Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world champions rope and ride at the 85th annual La Fiesta de los Vaqueros, which takes place over the course of nine days at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds, 4823 S. Sixth Ave. Tickets range from $5 to $26, and proceeds benefit causes including University of Arizona scholarship funds. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or in advance at www.tucsonrodeo.com or call 741-2233.

Feb. 21

Fords on Fourth

Three blocks of North Fourth Avenue near the Sixth Street intersection will be blocked off to normal traffic and dedicated to rows of Ford cars for the 46th Anniversary of the Ford Mustang. The free, family-friendly show is put on by the Southern Arizona Mustang Club and will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. In order to register your own car, visit www.southernarizonomastangclub.com or call 622-6118.

Feb. 23 - 28

Fiddler on the Roof

The Broadway musical, starring Harvey Fierstein as the iconic milkman struggling to maintain the moral of his family’s mob in czarist Russia, is coming to the Tucson Music Hall, 260 S. Church Ave. General Admission seats start at $27, and there is a limit of eight tickets per household. Tickets can be purchased at the Tucson Convention Center Ticket Office, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or at 800-745-3000.

March 11

Contemporary Mexican Fiction

The Best of Contemporary Mexican Fiction is a collection of stories that appear in English for the first time, featuring 16 prominent Mexican writers born after 1945. University of Arizona Press series presents a reading co-sponsored by the Consulate of Mexico in Tucson and UA BookStores. Editor Alvaro Uribe and three of the authors will attend. Admission is free and the reading begins at 8 p.m. at the UA Poetry Center, 1508 E. Helen St. Visit www.library.pima.gov or call 792-9985 for more information.

1-12 de febrero

Artes Picadiente

José Robles es un abogado de Tucson y un pintor que utiliza un picadiente como su única herramienta para pintar (y de vez en cuando la espina del cactus). Al hablar de su arte llama a su madera y obras de cerámica “Artes picadiente,” o “Toothpick Art.” Una colección que incluye 15 piezas del artista se exhibe en La Plitina Museum, 420 S. Main Ave., el cual está abierto de martes a sábado de 11 a.m. hasta 2 p.m. La entrada a la exhibición es gratuita. Para más información llame al 882-7454 o visite www.laplitila.com.

9-12 de febrero, 14 de febrero

Taller de San Valentín

Lleve a los pequeños papás al Tucson Children’s Museum para un día de artesanías de San Valentín. Los padres y los niños pueden usar un kitnes para decorar los corazones festivos. La actividad está incluida en el precio de entrada al museo, 200 S. Sixth Ave., y comienza a las 3 p.m. El precio de admisión es de $6 para niños hasta 18, $8 para adultos y $6 para personas mayores. Los niños deben estar acompañados por un adulto. Para más información, visite www.tucsonchildrensmuseum.org o llame al 792-9985.

10 de febrero

Murales Urbanos

Los murales son a menudo vistos como vandalismo. La Sam Lena-South Tucson Branch Library, 1607 S. Sixth Ave., estará cerrada para el paso del tráfico y será dedicada a las fotos de un murales que tiene la unidad, lleva a cabo durante nueve días en los terrenos del rodeo de Tucson, 4823 S. Sixth Ave. Los boletos cuestan de $5 a $26, y los ingresos benefician a diferentes causas, incluyendo el fondo para becas de la Universidad de Arizona. Los boletos se pueden comprar en la puerta o por adelantado en www.tucsonrodeo.com o llame al 741-2233.

21 de febrero

Ford en la Cuatro

Tres cuadras de la avenida North Fourth Avenue, cerca de la intersección de la calle Sixth Street, estarán cerradas para el paso del tráfico y serán dedicadas a fotos de autos Ford para celebrar el 46º aniversario del Ford Mustang. El show es gratuito y para toda la familia. El evento es llevado a cabo por Southern Arizona Mustang Club, y durará de 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Para registrar su auto, visite www.southernarizonomastangclub.com o llame al 622-6118.

23 a 28 de febrero

Fiddler on the Roof

El musical de Broadway, protagonizado por Harvey Fierstein como el icónico lechero que lucha por mantener la moral de su familia durante la Rusia zarista, viene al Tucson Music Hall, 260 S. Church Ave.

Los asientos de admisión general empiezan a vender por $27, y la entrada es gratis para los niños. Los boletos se pueden comprar en las taquillas del Tucson Convention Center, por internet en www.ticketmaster.com, o llamando al 800-745-3000.

11 de marzo

Ficción contemporánea mexicana

La mejor de la Ficción contemporánea mexicana. Una selección de historias que aparecen por primera vez en inglés, con 10 destacadas escritoras y escritores mexicanos nacidos después de 1945. La serie es presentada por la Universidad de Arizona, y tres de los autores asistirán. Para más información, visite www.library.pima.gov o llame al 592-5265.

17 de febrero

Otoración de computadoras portátiles

Venga a apoyar a los casi 500 estudiantes de primer año de las escuelas secundarias Desert View y Sunnyside que recibirán computadoras portátiles en una ceremonia abierta en la Universidad de Arizona Centennial Hall, 1501 N. Campbell Ave. Los estudiantes han ganado las computadoras portátiles al armar los requisitos de premio del Proyecto del distrito de graduación: la ventaja digital. La entrega es gratuita y se llevará a cabo de 5:30 a 8 p.m. Para más información visite www.sun-nysidek12.ar.us o llame al 545-2000.